

# SCHOOL LIAISON LINK



Grand Forks AFB School Liaison Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 11, February 2012

"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."



*Everyone Matters*

## Update on Possible Co-Location of Schools

Grand Forks AFB school board members are in the information gathering stage in their quest to make a decision as to how many schools are needed on the base. Consolidation of the schools into a single building is recommended due to current low enrollment and limited student enrollment growth potential. Twining Elementary/Middles School has ample capacity for the current Eielson student body and also for any potential future enrollment growth. Families with grades K-8 students would benefit by having them in one facility. Bus service is already provided on the air base and there is potential for the Eielson School to be repurposed through a private contractor or air base agency. The Grand Forks Air Force Base leadership is in support of a review of the possible co-location.

There have been opportunities in the past 6 weeks for parents to voice concerns about this recommendation. If you have not heard about this or would like to become involved, please contact any of the following resources:

- School Liaison Officer at 747-4484
- GFAFB school board members
- Principals at Carl Ben Eielson (787-5000) or Nathan Twining Elementary/Middle school (787-5100)
- Eielson Parent Group at 701-631-0194

Upcoming meetings that are open to the public and will involve the decision-making process and/or allow public comments regarding the consolidation include:

**13 Feb:** Grand Forks School Board Meeting – 6:00pm @ the Mark Sanford Education Center, 2400 47<sup>th</sup> Ave South

**28 Feb:** GFAFB School Board Meeting – 12:00pm @ Eielson Elementary School

Parents will also be able to tour Twining to see what arrangements will be made in accepting the student body from Eielson. Tour date still to be announced.

## You Tube has a Site for Schools!



Check out [www.youtube.com/schools](http://www.youtube.com/schools) and find out how your school can access tons of free educational videos through your school's network. The videos in You Tube EDU are from well known organizations like PBS, Stanford, and Steve Spangler. There is also a [youtube.com/teachers](http://youtube.com/teachers) site with videos that are organized by grade level and subject matter. This site was made for teachers by teachers.

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## February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

The 2012 Theme for the Grand Forks Air Force base is:

**"Dating and Violence Should Never Be a Couple"**

### WARNING SIGNS FOR TEENS

#### YOU MAY BE IN A VIOLENT RELATIONSHIP

1. He/she tells you he can't live without you and blames you for his/her problems.
2. He/she breaks or hits things to intimidate you.
3. Your weight, appearance, or grades have changed dramatically since you started seeing this person.
4. He/she threatens to hurt him/herself or others if you break up with him/her.
5. The person you are dating acts jealously, says jealous things, or exhibits aggressive behaviors towards you.
6. He/she pressures you into having sex, or forces you to do sexual things you don't want to do by saying, "If you really loved me you would..."
7. He/she humiliates you and belittles your opinions.
8. The person you are dating slaps or shoves you in a seemingly playful way, but it happens often and doesn't seem right.
9. He/she is jealous and possessive about the time you spend with your friends.
10. He/she is constantly checking up on you, and asking where you are and what you are doing.
11. The person you date has severe mood swings or constant bad moods.
12. He/she wants to limit your other school activities, so you can "be together more."
13. You're frightened of him/her and worry about how he/she will react to things you say or do.
14. He/she wants your relationship to get serious too quickly, and he/she refuses to take "no" for an answer.
15. They blame past bad relationships on everything or everybody else instead of accepting any of the responsibility.
16. He/she abuses drugs or alcohol and pressures you to take them with him/her even when you don't want to.
17. His statements or actions indicate that he thinks men should be in control and women should do what they're told.
18. The person you're with treats you like property rather than a person they value.
19. When he/she gets angry he/she calls you names, kicks, hits, and pushes you.
20. He/she is abusive or aggressive towards inanimate objects and animals.
21. The person you are dating forces you to choose being with them over your family and friends.
22. He/she makes you feel that his/her needs and desires come before yours.
23. He/she makes you feel afraid to express your own thoughts or feelings, make decisions about how to spend your money, what to wear, where to go, or who to hang out with.
24. He/she lashes out or blames you for her bad day.
25. Your family and friends have warned you about this person or have told you that they're worried about your safety.
26. He/she may use or own weapons, and has a history of violence and fighting.
27. He/she blows disagreements out of proportion.
28. The person you are with tells you they dislike your parents and friends.
29. He/she has hit, pushed, choked, restrained, kicked, or physically hurt you.
30. He/she constantly threatens to break up with you, or constantly accuses you of planning to break up with him/her.
31. He/she treats his/her mother disrespectfully and or treats their parents badly.
32. The person you're with often loses their temper with you, verbally assaults you, sometimes threatens you, or brags about mistreating others.
33. He/she wants you to be available to her at all times.
34. His/her threats and anger are followed by vows of love and pleas for your forgiveness.

\*Adapted from the National Bar Association "Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program"

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## What Superintendents and Administrators Can Do to Support Military Youth

### WHO ARE THE KIDS?

- Have consistent processes in place that identify military-connected students (those with parents/guardians who are serving in the Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves, or are Post-9/11 Veterans).
- Consider adding this as a question on your enrollment forms: "Do you have a parent/guardian who is a member of the Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves, or a Post-9/11 Veteran?"
- Use this information to build awareness, inform faculty, focus support, and identify practices worthy of attention.
- Encourage campus recognition and appreciation for both military students and their parents.
- Don't forget the siblings! Encourage school administrators to ask about brothers and sisters who are serving.
- Stay informed about what schools are doing, especially during challenging times.

### 2. WHAT OTHER CONNECTIONS DO WE HAVE?

- Ask faculty and staff annually, to share if they are currently serving or have a family member who is currently full-time or in the Reserve Components (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard).
- Identify Veterans in schools, administration, support staff and on your school board.
- Build a local speakers bureau.
- Tap into local, state and national resources (such as the Library of Congress' Veterans' History Project).
- Find out what resources are available to support children and youth through the military, in the community, and through national organizations.

### 3. ARE WE LISTENING, LEARNING AND RESPONDING?

- Have processes or procedures in place at the district and campus levels to periodically check-in with military-connected parents, students and staff.
- Consider assuring representation from military-connected students and parents on advisory groups and site committees (i.e. calendar development committee).
- Review policies and practices--are they sensitive and flexible for all students who may experience school transitions?
- Evaluate programs, practices and initiatives. Know and make available What's Working and Why.

### 4. ARE WE INFORMING THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

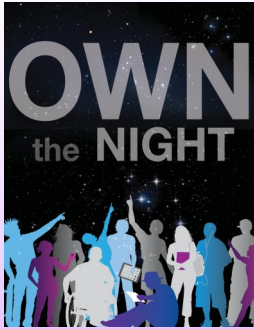
- Assure that serving the military-connected student is part of the priorities for professional development.
- Provide special program staff, guidance professionals and registrars additional training on solutions and options to assist students with both entry and exit transitions.
- Focus attention on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children ([www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net))--assure policies and practices are in sync with the Compact tenants and that parents are consistently informed.
- Use connections to the local/area military community to access speakers and resources.
- Tap into the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) professional development offerings and Speakers Bureau.

### 5. ARE WE USING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS EFFECTIVELY?

- At the high school and middle school levels-- learn about and add the MCEC Student to Student and Junior Student to Student (S2S and JS2S) programs.
- Provide forums and regular opportunities to invite local/area military leaders to meet, exchange insights and collaborate with you (Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve).
- Include a military leader as an ex officio member of the school board.
- Assure that the district and campus leadership attend local/area military-related events.
- Encourage the district public affairs staff to coordinate and communicate with their military counterparts.
- Encourage and showcase adopt-a-school and adopt-a-unit initiatives.
- Apply to the MCEC for their Partnership of Excellence Award.
- Annually review district and campus websites--are they useful and relevant for any family moving in or leaving?

Excerpted from Military Child Education Coalition : [militarychild.org](http://militarychild.org)

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## State Library Partners to Launch Teen Video Contest

The North Dakota State Library and the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) recently partnered to create the 2012 "Own the Night" Teen Video Contest. This contest is an opportunity for North Dakota teens to develop their video skills, have fun, and encourage other North Dakota teens to use the library all summer long. North Dakota teens are invited to create a 30 to 90 second video using the 2012 theme "Own the Night". The winning teen or group of teens will receive \$275 and the winner's public library will receive prizes worth \$150. Submissions are due at the State Library by March 15, 2012.

The Collaborative Summer Library Program is a grassroots consortium of all fifty states working together to provide kids, teens, families, and libraries with summer reading program materials. For additional information, including contest rules, entry forms, and a link to the 2011 winning videos, please visit [www.library.nd.gov/videocontest.html](http://www.library.nd.gov/videocontest.html).

## Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute

February 23-24 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Canad Inns Destination Center, Grand Forks

The purpose of this course is to help educators and professionals to reach out in a support network to the children and families of the National Guard and Reserve. This free training is open to guidance professionals, school administration and other caring adults interested in learning more about the military child. Participants will have the opportunity to earn educational credits in the form of 1.2 CEU's. Log on to **[www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org)** to register! Limited Seats Available.

## Valentines for Vets

**A Note from Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs**

Each February, many of you join us in the National Salute to Veteran Patients. This program encourages Americans to visit and volunteer at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to send letters of thanks or valentines to those who have protected our nation. This year's national salute is Feb. 12-18. Last year, more than 328,000 valentines were received at VA medical centers, and 21,330 people visited nearly 70,000 veteran patients.

The purpose of the national salute is threefold: to pay tribute and express appreciation to veterans, to increase community awareness of the role of VA medical centers, and to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and become involved as volunteers. Since 1978, the salute has presented Americans another opportunity to say "thank you" to our veterans and to those who give them care. I encourage you to take some time this February to honor our veterans.

For more information regarding the National Salute to Veteran Patients and volunteer opportunities at a local VA medical center, please visit the VA Voluntary Service Web page at [www.volunteer.va.gov](http://www.volunteer.va.gov)

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is a prevention-focused parent and family education program designed to facilitate child development and school readiness. The parent piece focuses on the following topics: Parenting Styles, Brain Development, Raising a Reader/Early Literacy, Choosing Effective Discipline Techniques, Media Wise, Developing Responsibility/Self-help Skills, Importance of Sleep, Learning Styles/School Readiness, Temperament, Early Literacy/Math, Social Emotional Development, Nurturance and Prevention Tools, Nutrition, Safety, Parent's Role in School Success. Parents join together in discussion while making educational "Make-n-Take It" activities to reinforce learning at home. A class is currently being held at Eielson Elementary for 11 families.

If you would like more information on this class for your 4 yr old, call Eielson Elementary at 787-5000.



## Military Kids Connect

A new website has been released by the Dept of Defense. Military Kids Connect is an online community of military children ages 6 –17 yrs old that provides them access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return. Through participation in the monitored online forums, children can share their own ideas, experiences, and suggestions with other military children, helping them to know they are not alone. Parents can control and monitor their child's access and activity on the website. Check out [www.militarykidsconnect.org](http://www.militarykidsconnect.org)

## Eielson Elementary Students Celebrate the 100th Day of School

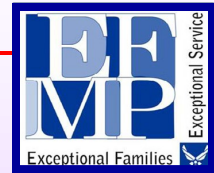


Mrs. Leighton's and Mrs. VanDeVenter's first grade classes planned fun activities throughout the day to celebrate their 100th day of school. The kids were able to wear their pajamas and slippers to school for the day. Special activities were also planned for them that included making masks, eating pancakes, and doing craft projects. The children had a fun filled day!

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## EFMP NEWS



**The Region II PRC has When Families Grieve** (a part of the Talk, Listen, Connect initiative, helping families cope with difficult transitions) kits available for distribution. The kits include a Sesame Street DVD, a guide for parents and caregivers and children's story-book. The kits are designed to help children with the death of a parent or someone else with whom they had a close relationship. The kits are free and very well done. I think the information can be adapted for a wide age range of children. The key topics are how to talk to your children about death; people grieve in different ways; and ideas for keeping memories alive even though the parent has died. [Holly.Arnold@ndsu.edu](mailto:Holly.Arnold@ndsu.edu) p: 701.857.6450 / f: 701.857.6454



### Military OneSource Special Needs Consultations

Military OneSource provides 60-minute consultations, up to 12 times a year, with a Special Needs Specialty Consultant. The consultant will assess your family's needs and answer your questions about moving benefits, education, finances, housing, support groups, medical resources, and more. To schedule your consultation, call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 and ask for an appointment with a Special Needs Specialty Consultant.

### Siblings of Children with Special Needs Support Group

**The Exceptional Family Member Program and School Liaison office are working together to organize a "Sibling Support Group" for children (K-12) that have Brothers or Sisters with Special Needs. A primary facilitator has already been chosen; Ms. Tara Cutting. She is a Social Work student from UND working on her Master Degree. The group will be co-facilitated by the Military & Family Life Consultant from Child & Youth Services, and an Airman & Family Readiness Center staff member. The function of this group is not therapy; rather a networking and communication forum.**

**Our initial goal is to receive feedback from parents that would like their children to participate in the group. Meeting intervals will be determined by Ms. Cutting and the group members. Please share this information with your children, and let us know if you would like them to be a part of the group. We plan on holding the first group meeting the beginning of March. Please contact Mr. Mike Johnson at 747-6437 or Kelly Painter if interested.**